

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims * and ADD new claims * in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)
2. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:
a charge determination unit determining whether or not the user is to bear a charge for recycle.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:
a payment method determination unit determining a method of paying the charge when said charge determination unit determines that the user is to pay the charge.
4. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:
a calculation unit calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit.
5. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
when said charge determination unit determines that the user is to pay the charge, the apparatus first confirms a payment of the charge by the user, and then performs a receiving process.
6. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said information obtaining unit obtains information from the user over a network.

7. (currently amended) A support apparatus for supporting recycled use of equipment of a user, comprising:

an information obtaining unit obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user;

a determination unit determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit whether or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment associated with physical characteristics of the equipment are exceeded;

a location management unit managing a location and a type of the received equipment;
and

a plant determination unit determining a plant which processes the equipment based on whether the restriction standards are exceeded~~the location and the type of the equipment.~~

8. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a progress information generation unit generating information about progress of recycling equipment.

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The storage according to claim 15, further comprising:

a charge determination unit determining whether or not the user is to bear a charge for recycle.

11. (previously presented) The program storage to claim 10, further comprising:

a payment method determination unit determining a method of paying the charge when said charge determination unit determines that the user is to pay the charge.

12. (previously presented) The storage according to claim 10, further comprising:

a calculation unit calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit.

13. (previously presented) The storage according to claim 11, wherein
when said charge determination unit determines that the user is to pay the charge, the computer first confirms a payment of the charge by the user, and then performs a receiving process.

14. (previously presented) The storage according to claim 15, wherein said information obtaining unit obtains information from the user over a network.

15. (currently amended): A computer readable storage storing a program used to direct a computer to function as:

an information obtaining unit obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from a user;

a determination unit determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit whether or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment associated with physical characteristics of the equipment are exceeded;

a location management unit managing a location and a type of the received equipment;
and

a plant determination unit determining a plant which processes the equipment based on whether the restriction standards are exceeded~~the location and the type of the equipment~~.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:
determining whether or not the user is to bear a charge for recycle.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
determining a method of paying the charge when said charge determination step determines that the user is to pay the charge.

19. (original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information
obtaining step.
20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein
when said charge determination step determines that the user is to pay the charge, a
payment of the charge by the user is first confirmed, and then a receiving process is performed.
21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein said
information obtaining step obtains information from the user over a network.
22. (currently amended) A supporting method of supporting recycled use of
equipment of a user, comprising:
obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user;
determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining step whether
or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment associated with
physical characteristics of the equipment are exceeded;
managing a location and a type of the received equipment; and
determining a plant which processes the equipment based on whether the restriction
standards are exceeded~~the location and the type of the equipment~~.
23. (new) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the physical characteristics
comprise weigh and/or size.
24. (new) A method, comprising:
obtaining the physical characteristics of equipment to be recycled;
comparing the physical characteristics of the equipment with a physical characteristic
limitation; and
designating a recycling facility for processing the equipment based on the comparing.